

than 3% of the total value include by hand, dredges, channel net, rod-n-reel and tongs (Table 84).

The number of dealers reporting landings in Onslow County increased overall from 1994-1998 and then declined overall from 1998-2001 (Table A32). The number of vessels recording landings in Onslow County fluctuated from 1994-1999 and then increased from 1999-2000 but ended the period with a decline in 2001 (Table A32). The number of licenses issued that allow the sell of catch increased overall from 1994-2001 (Table A32). The number of fishermen reporting landings decreased from 1994-1996 and then increased in 1997 but then declined again from 1997-1999 (Table A32). However, to end the period the number of fishermen exhibited an increasing trend from 1999-2001 (Table A32). The percent composition of the workforce made up of commercial fishermen in Onslow County ranged from 0.71% in 1999 to 1.33% in 2001 (Table A32). The average fishing income remained relatively stable from 1994-1996 and then increased in 1997 but then decreased from 1997-1999 (Table A32). The average fishing income then fluctuated to end the period (Table A32). The percent of the average fishing income relative to the average annual wage per worker in Onslow County followed the same trends as the average fishing income (Table A23).

The increase in the average fishing income in 1997 and 2000 correspond to an increase in landings for Onslow County commercial fishermen, while the increase in 1998 is due to a decline in the number of commercial fishermen with only a slight decline in landings. The decline in the average fishing income in 1999 and 2001 correspond to a decline in landings for Onslow County participants. The decline in landings in 1999 is most likely due to the hurricanes of 1999 while the decline in 2001 is most likely related to a decline in the blue crab harvest. These trends also suggest that Onslow County commercial fishermen participate and generate a significant portion of the fishing income during fall fisheries.